

REMARKS

The Examiner on page 4, paragraph 3, of the outstanding office communication has indicated that claims 5-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intermediate claims. Based upon this, claim 5 has been rewritten as an independent claim to incorporate all of the limitations of the base claim and intermediate claims from which claim 5 depends. Accordingly, claims 5 and 7 – 21 should now be in condition for allowance. Claims 22 – 30 have been allowed.

The rejection of claims 1 – 4 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the feature of an internal cover based upon the statement of the Examiner in paragraph 7 of the official action that the prior art does not teach or render obvious a printer having the feature of an internal cover located between the top cover unit and back case unit assembled to open and close to the top cover unit for forming a medium transportation path when the internal cover is closed. Claim 1 also states that easy access to the medium transportation path is provided for maintenance when the internal cover is open. Accordingly, applicant believes that claim 1 should now be allowable.

Claim 6 has also been amended to reflect the amendment of claim 1 and is also believed to be allowable.

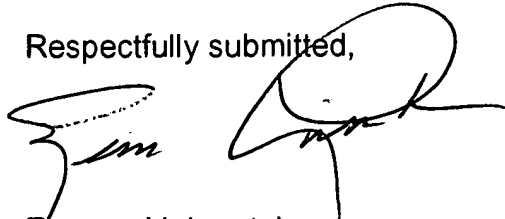
For all of the above reasons, rejection of the claims 1-4 should be withdrawn.

Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form as suggested by the examiner in paragraph 3 of the office action.

Accordingly, claims 1-30 are all now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of an allowance of claims 1-30 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAILING CERTIFICATE

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